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## CLAIMS

- 1 1. A method comprising  
2 processing information about network faults that contribute  
3 to a failure of a network element in which the faults are occurring,  
4 and  
5 sending traps to a network management station with respect  
6 to fewer than all of the faults that are occurring, based on the  
7 results of the information processing.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 in which the information is  
2 processed using a directed acyclic graph.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2 in which nodes of the graph  
2 represent entities of the network element.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 in which the result of the processing  
2 comprises information about the causal relationships among at  
3 least some of the faults.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1 in which traps are sent with respect  
2 to faults that have a causal relationship to other faults and traps are  
3 not sent with respect to at least some of the other faults.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1 also including

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2            requesting fault information from an entity that is part of  
3            the network element and which has not triggered a fault notice to  
4            determine if there is a fault associated with the network element.

1        7.        A method comprising

2            at a network management station, receiving traps sent from  
3            network elements, the traps including information about at least  
4            some faults occurring in entities of the network elements, the traps  
5            not including information about at least some faults occurring in  
6            the entities.

1        8.        The method of claim 7 also including

2            reporting the traps to an operator of the network  
3            management station.

1        9.        The method of claim 7 in which the traps the information  
2            included in the traps represents faults that have a causal  
3            relationship to other faults.

1        10.       Apparatus comprising

2            a network element having

3            network entities that are subject to faults, the faults  
4            of at least some of the network entities having causal  
5            relationships to the faults of at least some of the network  
6            entities, and

7 a medium bearing information capable of  
8 configuring a machine in the network element to send traps  
9 based on the causal relationships to a network management  
10 station.

1 11. A medium bearing information capable of configuring a  
2 machine to determine causal relationships among faults occurring  
3 in entities of a network element.

1 12. The medium of claim 11 in which the information  
2 comprises a directed acyclic graph of nodes.

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